Virginia Tech's new football coach Jimmy Sharpe has found his list of potential quarterbacks shrinking even before Spring drills begin with still-injured Rick Popp not available and Steve Mathieson gone.

Popp's loss is considerable since he brought to his post some flair and excitement, plenty of nerve and a rapidly-unfolding potential on split-second pitchouts, running and passing.

Mathieson had a good throwing arm but got very little chance to display it, due to an injury shortly after he replaced Popp.

Assuming that all quarterback candidates who were on varsity or JV squads give it another try this year the prospects are Mitch Barnes of Southampton, Rusty Bailey of Knoxville, Tenn., John Norris of Elizabethton, Tenn., and Tony Lee Adams of Chesapeake all from the JV's; upcoming junior Greg Mullinax of Dalton Ga., Mitchell Thomas of Richmond and reportedly returned Bruce Arians.

Add to this an outstanding recruit or so, juggle carefully and you have the signal-calling salad out of which Sharpe will probably make his selection.

All of which will make the Tech Spring game May 18th much more interesting.